



WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

Research Memo

17 RM 008

Date: April 5, 2017
Author: Jennifer Lockwood, Associate Research Analyst
Re: Game and Fish Complimentary Licenses

Questions

1. What are the statutory provisions that govern the issuance of complimentary licenses?
2. What complimentary licenses were issued by the Governor in 2017?
3. What complimentary licenses were issued by Game and Fish Commissioners in 2017?

Answers

1. Table 1, below, depicts the statutory information relating to complimentary game and fish licenses issued within the State of Wyoming. The table includes the name or type of complimentary license, statutory location governing its administration, the agency issuer, and the number of licenses issued annually by species type.

Table 1. Wyoming Game and Fish Complimentary Licenses by Statute.

License Type	Statutory Location	Who Issues	Number of Licenses issued yearly
Governor Issued Licenses	W.S. 23-1-705(a)	The Governor	25 hunting big game licenses (up to 5 big horn sheep, up to 5 moose or up to 5 bison, remainder are typically elk); 25 fishing may also be issued.
One Shot Antelope Hunt	W.S. 23-1-705(b)	The Game and Fish Commission	Up to 80 antelope licenses.
Gun Powder Buck Skin Hunts	W.S. 23-1-705(c)	The Game and Fish Commission	Up to 25 deer licenses.
Lifetime Bird, Small Game and Fish	W.S. 23-1-705(d)	The Game and Fish Department	Lifetime bird, small game and fish licenses may be issued to honorably discharged veterans that meet statutory qualifications. No license maximum is established in statute.

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License Type	Statutory Location	Who Issues	Number of Licenses issued yearly
Pioneer Heritage Big Game License	W.S. 23-1-705(e)(ii)	The Game and Fish Department	Applicant must be a Wyoming resident with 50 continuous years of residency in Wyoming and must be 70 or older. No license maximum is established in statute.
Pioneer Big Game License	W.S. 23-1-705(e)(i)	The Game and Fish Department	Applicant must be 75 or older and have resided in Wyoming for 50 continuous years. No license maximum is established in statute.
Active Duty Military License	W.S. 23-1-705(e)(iii)	The Game and Fish Department	Applicant must be a resident of Wyoming and must show proof of military orders indicating active duty. No license maximum is established in statute.
National Bow Hunt	W.S. 23-2-101(f)	The Game and Fish Commission	75 non-resident deer licenses.
Commissioner Authorized Licenses	W.S. 23-1-705(g)	Appointed Commissioners	Each commissioner can issue up to 8 licenses for elk, deer or antelope to be utilized by non-profit charitable organizations for auction, bid or raffle.
Licenses for Individuals with Disabilities	W.S. 23-1-705(h)	The Game and Fish Commission	Up to 50 antelope licenses issued to non-profit organizations.
Licenses for Individuals with Life-threatening Illnesses	W.S. 23-1-705(j)	The Game and Fish Commission	25 licenses for each species of antelope, deer, elk, and turkey for use by qualifying individuals with life-threatening illnesses. Applicant must be 20 years of age or younger. No maximum number of licenses established in statute.
Donated License Program	W.S. 23-1-705(k)	The Game and Fish Department	Individuals with a big game license may surrender the license to the Game and Fish Department for reissuance to either a veteran with disabilities or an individual with a permanent disability. Those who donate licenses and those who receive licenses must still abide by current restrictions.

Source: Legislative Service Office Research summary of information provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Wyoming Statutes.

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2. **Table 2, below, depicts the big game complimentary licenses issued by the Governor in 2017. The table displays the date of the live auction sale, the entity selling the licenses, the selling location, and any additional information provided regarding each sale. All auctions take place in a live setting, but some auctions provide opportunities for phone or internet bidding. It should be noted that the Governor’s big game license auctions are managed by the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation.**

According to the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation, 90% of the funds generated from the license sales are applied to various conservation efforts throughout the State of Wyoming. The estimated total funds applied for these projects in 2017 was approximately \$500,000.

Table 2. 2017 Wyoming Governor’s Big Game Licenses Issued.

Date	Selling Entity	Selling Location	Additional Information
<i>Bighorn Sheep</i>			
1/21/2017	Wild Sheep Foundation	Reno, NV	Phone bids may be arranged. Internet auction will be streamed live.
2/18/2017	Eastern Chapter – Wild Sheep	Lancaster, PA	Phone bids may be arranged. Internet auction will be streamed live.
3/11/2017	Iowa Chapter Foundation of North American Wild Sheep	Des Moines, IA	Phone bids may be arranged.
3/18/2017	Wild Sheep Foundation Midwest Chapter	Minneapolis, MN	Phone bids may be arranged. Internet auction will be streamed live.
6/03/2017	Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation	Casper, WY	Phone bids may be arranged.
<i>Elk, Deer or Antelope</i>			
2/11/2017	RMEF - Sweetwater Chapter	Rock Springs, WY	Phone bids encouraged.
3/11/2017 to 3/18/2017	RMEF - Southwest Wyoming Chapter	Evanston, WY	Phone bids encouraged.
4/15/2017	RMEF - Red Canyon Chapter	Lander, WY	Phone bids encouraged.
4/28/2017	RMEF - Laramie Peak Chapter	Cheyenne, WY	Phone bids encouraged.
2/16/2017 to 2/19/2017	Western Hunting & Conservation Expo	Salt Lake City, UT	Phone bids may be arranged.
5/06/2017	Mule Deer Foundation - Central Coast Chapter	San Jose, CA	Phone bids may be arranged.

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3/25/2017	Muley Fanatic Foundation - Rock Springs	Rock Springs, WY	Pre-Register for phone bids.
<i>Moose</i>			
1/21/2017	Wild Sheep Foundation	Reno, NV	Phone bids may be arranged. Internet auction will be streamed live.
1/25/2017 to 1/28/2017	Grand Slam Club - Ovis	Las Vegas, NV	Phone bids may be arranged.
2/18/2017	Mule Deer Foundation	Lancaster, PA	Phone bids may be arranged.
2/18/2017	Mule Deer Foundation	Salt Lake City, UT	Phone bids may be arranged.
5/06/2017	Mule Deer Foundation - Central Coast Chapter	San Jose, CA	Phone bids may be arranged.

Source: LSO summary of information provided by the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation website and Wyoming Wildlife Foundation staff interviews.

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3. Table 3, below, depicts the complimentary licenses issued by each Game and Fish Commissioner. The table also lists each license number, the recipient organization, the method by which the licenses were issued to interested parties, the date the license sale was finalized by the organization (if provided), and any pertinent information available regarding the license sale. The Legislative Service Office (LSO) could not confirm all finalized sales dates, but the Game and Fish Department states that all of these licenses were issued in 2017. Also, LSO was told that the finalized sale date generally represents the date the payment is made on the license (e.g. the date that a check clears). In total, fifty six complimentary licenses were authorized, equal to eight different licenses for each of the seven district commissioners. Of the issued licenses, methods for disposal include twenty nine by auction, nineteen by bid, and seven by raffle. The issue method was not indicated for one license.

Table 3. 2017 Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioners’ Complimentary Licenses Issued.

Issuer	License Number	Recipient Organization	Issue Method	Date Sales are Finalized	Additional Information
Patrick Crank – District 1	17-01-01	Wyoming Cowboy Joe Club	Auction	--	Amount: \$16,500
Patrick Crank – District 1	17-01-02	Wild Sheep Foundation	Auction	1/20/2017	“This license will be live-auctioned (item FR-05) on Friday, January 20, 2017, at the Wild Sheep Foundation convention in Reno, Nevada. On-line bidding may be done, providing the bidder(s) have pre-registered via the WSF webpage”. Amount: \$16,500
Patrick Crank – District 1	17-01-03	Two Shot Goose Hunt	Bid	--	“We will accept bids until March 1, 2017, by phone. The "buy it now" price is \$12,500.00.”
Patrick Crank – District 1	17-01-04	Rooster Boosters	Auction	1/31/2017	“We will be taking phone bids...until January 31, 2017.” Amount: \$14,250
Patrick Crank – District 1	17-01-05	Muley Fanatic Foundation of Wyoming	Raffle	--	“This Commissioner's license will be available in our 2017 Sponsor Membership Raffle. Raffle is limited to the first 200 sponsor members and can be purchased online for \$250... Drawing will be held when sold out or on April 28, 2017.”

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Issuer	License Number	Recipient Organization	Issue Method	Date Sales are Finalized	Additional Information
Patrick Crank – District 1	17-01-06	National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association	Auction	2/24/2017	“The license will be sold to the highest bidder to benefit the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp renovation project. Bids will be taken by phone until 4 p.m. on March 31, 2017 during regular business hours at the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center. Starting bid is \$10,000 and the first confirmed bid of \$14,000 will secure the license.”
Patrick Crank – District 1	17-01-07	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sweetwater Chapter	Raffle	--	“10 x 10 square board at \$100.00 per square for a total of \$10,000.00.”
Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-01-08	Albany County 4H Shooting Program	Bid	1/5/2017	“The minimum bid is \$9,500. The first confirmed bid of \$12,000 will secure the license... Bidding closes at noon on March 31, 2017.”
Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-02-01	National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center to benefit Conservation Camp Remodel	Auction	3/2/2017	“The license will be sold to the highest bidder to benefit the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp renovation project. Bids will be taken by phone until 4 p.m. on March 31, 2017 during regular business hours at the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center. Starting bid is \$10,000 and the first confirmed bid of \$14,000 will secure the license.”
Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-02-02	Seedskadee Trout Unlimited	Bid	3/10/2017	“The license will be sold to the highest bidder to benefit the Charter of Trout Unlimited via the Seedskadee Chapter.” Amount: \$13,000.00.
Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-02-03	Muley Fanatics to benefit D.E.E.R. Project	Raffle	--	“This Commissioner License is available to the grand prize winner of the Support the DEER Project raffle... Tickets are \$100 each, limited to 500 tickets. Second through fifth place prizes are firearms. Drawing will be held on April 28, 2017 or when sold out.”

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Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-02-04	Hunting With Heroes	Auction	--	“This license will be live auctioned on Saturday, June 3, 2017 between 8 and 9 p.m. at the WY Wild Sheep Banquet held at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper, WY. Phone bids will also be accepted at that time.”
Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-02-05	Wyoming Migration Initiative to benefit Baggs' Mule Deer Study	Auction	--	“The license will be offered at a live auction conducted by the Muley Fanatic Foundation at their banquet in Rock Springs on the evening of March 25, 2017. Bids will be accepted in person or by phone.”
Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-02-06	Water for Wildlife	Bid	--	“Market the license to the highest bidder.”
Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-02-07	KD Foundation for Juvenile Diabetes	Raffle	--	“...100 squares on our board for \$100 per square. We will draw the winning square on Friday, March 3, 2017... Squares will be open for the general public to purchase from any member of the KD Foundation board.”
Mark Anselmi - District 2	17-02-08	NCHS Millennium Fund, Inc.	Bid	--	“Auction on Wyoming Wildlife Foundation website.”
Charles Price – District 3	17-03-01	Muley Fanatic Foundation of Wyoming to benefit Kevin Monteith for his "Mule Deer Fawn Survival Research"	Raffle	--	“This Commissioner license is part of a grand prize package offered in support of the Mule Deer Fawn Survival Research being conducted in the Wyoming Range. Tickets are \$100 each and limited to 500 tickets...”
Charles Price – District 3	17-03-02	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Jackson Hole Chapter	Auction	2/23/2017	“Live phone auction and/or "Buy it now" advertising through State Chapter web, local Chapter Facebook and with outfitters...” Amount: \$11,000.00

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Charles Price – District 3	17-03-03	Society for Wildlife Forensic Science	Auction	2/6/2017	“Bids will be accepted by phone. The minimum bid is \$11,500; buy it now for \$14,000. The bid deadline is noon, March 3, 2017. The highest bid or first to choose buy it now by this date will secure the license.”
Charles Price – District 3	17-03-04	Wyoming Stock Growers Association- Land Stewardship Award Program	Bid	2/13/2017	“Auction on WSGA website; bids accepted by phone...or email... minimum bid \$12,000, buy it now for \$14,000; bidding closes March 15, 2017.”
Charles Price – District 3	17-03-05	Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation- Directed to Steve Kilpatrick to benefit the Goat-Bighorn Sheep Study in Western Wyoming	Bid	1/26/2017	“The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation is accepting phone bids until 1:00 pm on March 31, 2017. The minimum bid is \$13,000 and one can buy it now for \$14,000. The funds generated will be used to support research/monitoring of mountain goats in the Snake River Range north of Alpine, Wyoming...”
Charles Price – District 3	17-03-06	Wyoming PBS Foundation to benefit "The Drift Documentary"	Auction	1/26/2017	“The license will be auctioned on the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation website.”
Charles Price – District 3	17-03-07	National Bighorn Sheep Center to benefit the "Conservation Camp"	Auction	3/2/2017	“The license will be sold to the highest bidder to benefit the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp renovation project. Bids will be taken by phone until 4 p.m. on March 31, 2017 during regular business hours at the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center. Starting bid is \$10,000 and the first confirmed bid of \$14,000 will secure the license.”

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Charles Price – District 3	17-03-08	National Bighorn Sheep Center	Auction	2/21/2017	“The license will be sold to the highest bidder to benefit the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association. Bids will be taken by phone until 4 p.m. on March 31, 2017 during regular business hours at the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center. Starting bid is \$10,000, and the first confirmed bid of \$14,000 will secure the license.”
Carrie Little – District 4	17-04-01	Zac Gibbs AG Business Scholarship (to be sold through Wyoming Wildlife Foundation)	Bid	--	“License to be sold through Wyoming Wildlife Foundation.”
Carrie Little – District 4	17-04-02	American Legion and Auxiliary Post 13 (to be sold through Wyoming Wildlife Foundation)	Bid	--	“The license will be sold via online auction on Wyoming Wildlife Foundation.”
Carrie Little – District 4	17-04-03	Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt	Bid	2/27/2017	“Wyoming Wildlife Foundation will auction the license at wyomingwildlifefoundation.org.”
Carrie Little – District 4	17-04-04	Wyoming Woolgrowers Association (to be sold through Wyoming Wildlife Foundation)	Bid	--	“Wyoming Wildlife Foundation will auction the license on their website www.wyomingwildlifefoundation.org.”
Carrie Little – District 4	17-04-05	Wyoming Association of County Predatory Animal Boards (to be sold through Wyoming Wildlife Foundation) for Campbell, Johnson & Sheridan Counties	Bid	--	“Wyoming Wildlife Foundation will auction the license on their website www.wyomingwildlifefoundation.org.”
Carrie Little – District 4	17-04-06	St. Mary's Catholic Church (to be sold through Wyoming Wildlife Foundation)	--	--	--

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Carrie Little – District 4	17-04-07	Wyoming Association of County Predatory Animal Boards (to be sold through Wyoming Wildlife Foundation) for Campbell, Johnson & Sheridan Counties	Bid	--	“Wyoming Wildlife Foundation will auction the license on their website www.wyomingwildlifefoundation.org .”
Carrie Little – District 4	17-04-08	Wyoming Woolgrowers Association on behalf of UW Bighorn/Domestic Sheep	Bid	--	“The Wyoming Wildlife Foundation will auction the license on their website, wyomingwildlifefoundation.org .”
David Rael – District 5	17-05-01	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Cody Chapter	Auction	1/12/2017	“Phone bids will be accepted until noon May 1, 2017. Minimum bid of \$10,000. The first confirmed bid of \$13,000 will secure the license...”
David Rael – District 5	17-05-02	Bowhunters of Wyoming	Raffle	--	“Bowhunters of Wyoming will sell raffle tickets for \$50.00 each with 350 tickets available on their website... Winning ticket will be drawn at BOW annual... convention on March 25, 2017.”
David Rael – District 5	17-05-03	Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation	Bid	1/26/2017	“The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation is accepting phone bids until 1:00 pm on March 31, 2017. The minimum bid is \$13,000 and one can buy it now for \$14,000. The funds generated will be used to ‘put and keep kids and sheep on the mountain.’”
David Rael – District 5	17-05-04	Wyoming Outdoorsman	Auction	2/17/2017	“Phone bids will be accepted until March 20, 2017. Bidding shall open at \$10,000 and the first offer of \$14,000 shall receive the license.”
David Rael – District 5	17-05-05	Wyoming Outfitters Association	Auction	1/30/2017	“The Commissioner license will be auctioned beginning Friday, January 13, 2017 through January 31, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Bids will be received via email at wyoga.org or phone... Buy it now for \$15,000.00.”

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David Rael – District 5	17-05-06	Wyoming Shoshone Back Country Horsemen	Auction	1/25/2017	“Minimum bid \$10,000. The first confirmed bid of \$12,500 secures the tag. Bidding closes at noon, March 15, 2017...”
David Rael – District 5	17-05-07	Cody Shooting Complex	Auction	1/12/2017	Amount: \$11,000
David Rael – District 5	17-05-08	Pryor Mountain Mustang Center	Auction	3/1/2017	“The license will be sold by auction https://pmwmcauctions.org . The closing date for bids will be March 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Bidding will start at \$9,500.”
Keith Culver – District 6	17-06-01	Wyoming Fly Casters	Auction	1/23/2017	“The license will be sold to the highest bidder. Bids will be taken by phone or email...until March 20, 2017. The first bid of \$12,500.00 will secure the license.”
Keith Culver – District 6	17-06-02	Weston County 4H Shooting Sports to benefit Bill Kohlbrand Memorial Shooting Gallery and Equipment	Bid	1/09/2017	“We will accept bids for the license. The minimum bid is \$9,500. The first confirmed bid of \$12,000 will secure the license...”
Keith Culver – District 6	17-06-03	Wyoming Sportsman's Group	Auction	--	“Wyoming Sportsman's Group annual banquet March 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Complex at Gillette, WY. Live auction of tag to highest bidder or prior if adequate bid is offered.”
Keith Culver – District 6	17-06-04	Upton Gun Club	Auction	1/09/2017	“The license will be sold to the highest bidder by phone. The opening bid is \$9,000 and buy it now bid is \$10,000.”

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Keith Culver – District 6	17-06-05	Weston County Ducks Unlimited	Auction	1/13/2017	“Weston County Ducks Unlimited will hold a dinner banquet and live auction for the license on March 25, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the events center, Weston County Fairgrounds, in Newcastle. There will be phone bids available for out of state and town people who can't make the banquet. A buy it now price of \$11,000 would secure the license...”
Keith Culver – District 6	17-06-06	Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation	Raffle	--	“A maximum of 300 raffle tickets will be sold at \$100 each. The winner will be announced via a random draw at the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation annual banquet/fundraiser on June 3, 2017 at the Ramkota Hotel, Casper, WY. Tickets can be purchased online at wyomingwildsheep.org .”
Keith Culver – District 6	17-06-07	Outdoor Adventures for the Physically Challenged	Auction	1/25/2017	“The license will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The first person to bid \$15,000 will secure the license.”
Keith Culver – District 6	17-06-08	Wyoming Game Wardens Association to benefit NAWEOA	Auction	1/11/2017	“Bids will be accepted by phone or email. The minimum bid amount is \$10,000.00. The bid deadline is noon, February 28, 2017. The first confirmed bid of \$12,500.00 secures the license...”
Richard Klouda - District 7	17-07-01	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Lander Chapter and Riverton Chapter	Auction	--	“The license will be in our live auction on April 15, 2017, at approximately 7:30 pm at the Lander Community Center in Lander, WY. It will be advertised on our facebook page. We will take phone bids as well as bids from folks in attendance.”

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Richard Klouda - District 7	17-07-02	One Shot Antelope Hunt	Bid	1/26/2017	“We will take phone bids. First person to bid \$10,000 takes the tag.”
Richard Klouda - District 7	17-07-03	National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association	Auction	--	“The license will be sold to the highest bidder to benefit the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association’s Education and Outreach Program. Bids will be taken during the live auction session at the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation’s Annual Banquet on June 3, 2017 between 8pm-9pm at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Casper, WY. Phone bids will also be accepted at that time...”
Richard Klouda - District 7	17-07-04	Hunting with Heroes	Auction	1/16/2017	“Phone bids will be accepted until May 1, 2017. Minimum bid of \$10,000; first confirmed bid of \$12,500 will secure the license.”
Richard Klouda - District 7	17-07-05	Project Healing Waters	Auction	1/20/2017	“License will be offered by telephone and email bids. Bids will open 1/3/17 at \$9,000. First bid of \$12,500 will secure the license.”
Richard Klouda - District 7	17-07-06	Wyoming Service Dogs and Heart of Wyoming	Bid	1/15/2017	“We plan to auction the license through Wyoming Community Foundation early in January with a buy it now price of \$13,000.”
Richard Klouda - District 7	17-07-07	Popo Agie Anglers	Auction	2/26/2017	“License will be silent auctioned starting 1/15/17 and ending at 8 pm Mountain time on 3/31/17. Minimum bid will be \$7,000 with a buy it now price of \$15,000...”
Richard Klouda - District 7	17-07-08	Wyoming State B.P.O.E. Scholarship Program and National Bighorn Interpretive Association	Bid	3/7/2017	“Bids will be accepted by phone from February 1, 2017 until 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on April 30, 2017. The minimum bid is \$10,499.”

Source: LSO summary of information provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department website.

If you need anything further, please contact LSO Research at 777-7881.